

REMARKS

Claims 1-12, 16 and 17 have been canceled.

Claims 13-15 and 18-32 are currently pending in the present application.

Statement of the Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for taking time to discuss the application with Applicants' representative.

During the Interview, all of the claims were discussed with respect to the obviousness rejection. In particular, the discussion focused on what was meant by "conventional radical copolymerization technique" and how adjustment of the final pH of the solution to pH 8 was an integral part of the "conventional" process.

Applicants hereby submit a Declaration averring to this, as requested by the Examiner.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Further to the statements submitted in the Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 filed on November 19, 2009, Applicants provide this additional information.

With respect to the Examiner's contention that "the polymers formed by radical polymerization have a pH of about 4," and the Examiner's conclusion that it would be obvious to apply this known technique to the teachings of Fornelli (see page 5, last full paragraph), Applicants refer to the attached Declaration of Mr. Jonni Ahlgren, MS.

As Mr. Ahlgren states, Reference example 1 on page 11 presents an accurate description of the actions associated with the conventional radical copolymerization technique. In summary, these actions include treating the "raw" polymer solution obtained from the homopolymerization or copolymerization which has an acidic pH (such as a pH of 4) with alkali to obtain a "final" polymer solution with a pH of 8. Specifically, he states that the conventional radical copolymerization technique always results in a polymer solution with pH 8.

He further states that because convention taught that an alkali treatment must be conducted before the polymer solution was suitable for use, the skilled artisan would not have

thought to truncate the "conventional" method and to use the "raw" acidic polymer solution as a component in a bleaching process. Moreover, in his opinion had this been tried, the skilled artisan would have had no reasonable expectation of success because of the different pH environment in which subsequent reactions would occur. Instead, Mr. Ahlgren states that an unusable product, not an improved product with increased stability, would have been expected.

Conclusion

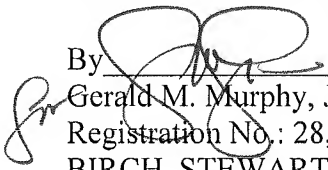
All of the claims are submitted as defining non-obvious, patentable subject matter. Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application and to schedule an Interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Susan W. Gorman, Reg. No. 47,604, at the telephone number of the undersigned below to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: January 8, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: Declaration of Dr. Ahlgren